

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (original): A medical image handling system comprising:

- a) a monitor for displaying a medical image;
- b) an input device for inputting an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor; and
- c) a processor capable of a control of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor and restricting a change of said medical image, in case the image reading report is judged absent by judging means.

2. (original): A medical image handling system according to claim 1, wherein said processor judges presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor when the medical image displayed on said monitor is changed.

3. (original): A medical image handling system comprising:

- a) a monitor for displaying a medical image;
- b) an input device for inputting an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor; and
- c) a processor capable of a control of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image and requesting an input of an image reading report, in case the image reading report is judged absent by judging means.

4. (original): A medical image handling system according to claim 3, wherein said processor judges presence or absence of an image reading report

corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor when the medical image displayed on said monitor is changed.

5. (original): A medical image handling system according to claim 3, wherein said processor measures a time elapsing from the display of the medical image on said monitor and judges presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image when the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

6. (original): A medical image handling system comprising:

- a) a monitor for displaying a medical image;
- b) an input device for inputting an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor; and
- c) a processor capable of a control of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image and automatically inputting a predetermined image reading report, in case the image reading report is judged absent by judging means.

7. (original): A medical image handling system according to claim 6, wherein said processor judges presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor when the medical image displayed on said monitor is changed.

8. (original): A medical image handling system according to claim 6, wherein said processor measures a time elapsing from the display of the medical image on said monitor and judges presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image when the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

9. (original): A medical image handling method comprising:

- a) a step of displaying a medical image;

- b) a step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image; and
- c) a step of restricting a change of the displayed medical image, in case the image reading report is judged absent by said judging step.

10. (original): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, wherein said step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report is executed in the case that the displayed medical image is changed.

11. (original): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, wherein, in said judging step, a time elapsing from the display of the medical image in said displaying step is measured, and a step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

12. (original): A medical image handling method comprising:

- a) a step of displaying a medical image;
- b) a step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image; and
- c) a step of requesting an input of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image, in case the image reading report is judged absent.

13. (original): A medical image handling method according to claim 12, wherein said step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report is executed in the case that the displayed medical image is changed.

14. (original): A medical image handling method according to claim 12, wherein, in said judging step, a time elapsing from the display of the medical image in said

displaying step is measured, and a step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

15. (original): A medical image handling method comprising:

- a) a step of displaying a medical image;
- b) a step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image; and
- c) a step of automatically inputting a predetermined image reading report, in case the image reading report is judged absent.

16. (original): A medical image handling method according to claim 15, wherein said step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report is executed when the displayed medical image is changed.

17. (currently amended): A medical image handling method according to claim 15, wherein, in said judging step, a time elapsing from the display of the medical image in said displaying step is measured, and a step of ~~judging~~ judging presence or absence of an image reading report the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

18. (original): A medical image handling method according to claim 15, wherein the image reading report automatically inputted by said control step includes either of a name of an image reading person or an image display time.

19. (original): A medical image handling method comprising:

- a) a step of displaying a medical image;
- b) a step of instructing a change in the displayed medical image;
- c) a step of judging, in case said change instructing step is an instruction for changing a subject person, whether another medical image other than the

displayed medical image exists for the same subject person of the displayed medical image;
and

d) a step of restricting a change in the subject person instructed by said change instructing step, in case another medical image other than the displayed medical image is judged to exist for the same subject person of the displayed medical image.

20. - 51. (canceled).